

MPC:cjv:iar 12/08/03 238885
PATENTAttorney Reference Number 450-55438
Application Number 10/003,169Remarks

Claims 1-43 remain pending, and no changes to the claims or specification have been made by this paper. In the above listing of the pending claims, claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 17, 19, 22, 33 and 39 are now designated as "previously presented."

Telephone conference with Examiner Jenkins

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Jenkins to Applicants' representative during the telephone conference of December 2, 2003. During the telephone conference, Applicants' representative explained that the July 31, 2003, amendment made use of the parenthetical expression "not entered" for some of the claims because no indication from the PTO that the June 5, 2003, amendments to these claims had been entered was received prior to July 31.

Thus, the status of the "currently amended" claims in the June 5, 2003, amendment was not known as of the July 31, 2003, filing. As indicated in the Revised Amendment Practice Powerpoint Presentation appearing on www.uspto.gov, "if in doubt as to whether a prior amendment was entered, the claims should be presumed to be 'not entered'."

Clarification as to Status of Claims

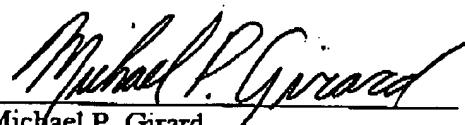
Claims 1-43 stand as presented in the above listing of the pending claims.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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